

Rain This Afternoon  
and Tonight.

# The Washington Times

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## FIRE WIPES OUT SECTION OF HOUSTON



Panoramic View of Texas City Visited By Storm and Fire, Which Caused \$5,000,000 Damage Today—Dynamite Used to Wreck Buildings and Check Spread of Conflagration.

### AMERICANS FLEE FROM CHIHUAHUA FOR THEIR LIVES

Situation in Mexico Is Hourly Becoming More Serious.

### WOMEN FORCED TO CROSS THE BORDER

Madero Unable to Hold in Check Forces Ravaging the Country.

Armed bands are terrorizing practically every section of Chihuahua, according to dispatches to the State Department today. Americans and other foreigners are compelled to flee for their lives.

Hundreds of women and children are crossing the border today and are telling harrowing stories of the ravages and pillage of the unrestrained ruffians.

Property is being destroyed and helpless people are being driven from their homes.

### Only Safe in Juarez.

There is no safety even in the city of Chihuahua itself, and the federalists are practically given up of regaining control of the situation. Only at Juarez, which is in range of American guns, is there any sign of order.

The anti-Madero forces among the people of Juarez and Chihuahua generally are in a decided majority. The State Department is informed, and should the revolt spread, as is now feared, no federal force could maintain authority in the state.

The district around Casas Grandes is in absolute control of the revolutionists and a large part of the Northwestern railroad is in possession of the rebels. As long as these forces hold the railroad no federal troops dare invade the territory.

So far there have been no disturbances immediately on the border, but American troops are patrolling the line mile by mile and are expecting trouble at any hour.

At the War Department this morning it was believed that the troops now in Texas would be able to maintain order and neutrality for the present at least.

Americans on the isthmus of Tehuantepec today report a serious condition in that section of the country. No authority exists in any part of the lower country except at Salina Cruz and this great port may at any time fall into the hands of the rebels. Americans have vast interests in Tehuantepec.

Large American interests in the Culiacan valley have appealed to the consul at Mazatlan for protection. Many citizens of this country have been clobbered in that district.

### WEATHER REPORT.

FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT.  
Rain this afternoon and tonight.  
Thursday generally fair; much colder.  
Lowest temperature tonight above freezing.

| TEMPERATURES. |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| U. S. BUREAU. | AFLECK'S.    |
| 2 a. m. 36.   | 3 a. m. 35.  |
| 5 a. m. 34.   | 8 a. m. 33.  |
| 8 a. m. 32.   | 11 a. m. 31. |
| 11 a. m. 30.  | 2 p. m. 29.  |
| 2 p. m. 28.   | 5 p. m. 27.  |
| 5 p. m. 26.   | 8 p. m. 25.  |
| 8 p. m. 24.   | 11 p. m. 23. |

TIDE TABLE.  
Today—High tide, 10:30 a. m. and 10:30 p. m.; low tide, 1:30 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.  
Tomorrow—High tide, 10:30 a. m. and 11:30 p. m.; low tide, 1:30 a. m. and 5:30 p. m.

SUN TABLE.  
Sun rises..... 6:40  
Sun sets..... 5:14

### L. J. ROBINSON IS MADE ASSISTANT POSTMASTER

Cashier for Past Three Years Elevated by Hitchcock and Merritt.

### ENTERED THE SERVICE AS MESSENGER BOY

Worked Out Details of Government Postal System in Cuba and Porto Rico.

Louis J. Robinson was today appointed Assistant Postmaster of the Washington Postoffice.

The appointment was made by Postmaster General Hitchcock and Postmaster N. A. Merritt.

For the past three years Mr. Robinson has been cashier of the Postoffice, and was placed in charge of the postal savings bank when that institution was established last summer.

In announcing the appointment today, Postmaster Merritt said he felt confident that the vacancy in the office of Assistant Postmaster had been filled by the best fitted man in the postal service.

### Praises Robinson.

"I believe," he said, "that the office will be very well filled. Mr. Robinson has served the postal service with credit for many years. He has been a messenger boy, a clerk, a cashier, and a postmaster. He has been in every position of the postal service, and he has done it all with credit. He is a man of high character, and he is a man of high ability. He is a man who is well fitted for the position of Assistant Postmaster."

Mr. Robinson has been a resident of Washington since the Spanish war. He was born in Mendota, Wis., forty-two years ago, and received his first appointment in the postal service as messenger boy in 1892. He was made assistant postmaster of the Washington Postoffice in 1909.

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### SENATORS HEAR ARGUMENTS FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

Appropriations Committee Urged to Restore Items Cut Out by House.

### SUBURBANITES OUT IN FORCE TO OBJECT

Residents of Outlying Sections Oppose Tuition Fee For Non-Resident Pupils.

The schools of the District had their opening before the subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee in charge of the District bill today. The subcommittee was urged to restore those items in the estimates for the schools which were cut out or lowered by the House.

The members of the School Board, the District Commissioners and delegations from outlying regions which are affected by the action of the House with reference to non-resident pupils were present.

One of the most interesting features of the hearing was the speeches made to the subcommittee by delegations from Chevy Chase, Kensington, and elsewhere. From the Chevy Chase Association came a committee consisting of Thomas E. Robertson and C. W. Dawson. William Terrell represented Kensington.

### Two Congressmen Present.

Congressmen Lewis of the Sixth Maryland district and Congressman Carlin of Virginia were also present. All pleaded to the subcommittee to change the provision put into the District bill in the House, the effect of which is to bar out pupils who are the children of non-residents, unless they pay taxes greater than the tuition fee.

Mr. Robertson spoke for the Chevy Chase Association, and Messrs. Dawson, Terrell, Lewis, and Carlin spoke on the non-resident proposition briefly.

It was urged in the subcommittee that the outlying regions whence non-residents come to the District schools are, to all practical purposes, a part of the District. That the residents spend their money in the District and devote most of their time to work or business in the District, and that the action of the House is unjust and unfair. The subcommittee will report on the matter.

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

### What Roosevelt Believes

I believe in the short ballot. \* \* \* You will get best service when you elect only a few men.

I believe in providing for direct nominations by the people, including therein direct preferential primaries for the election of delegates to the national nominating conventions.

I believe in the election of United States Senators by direct vote.

I believe in the initiative and the referendum.

I believe it (the recall) should be generally provided, but with such restrictions as will make it available only when there is a widespread and genuine public feeling among a majority of the voters.

I believe either the recall (of judges) will have to be adopted or else it will have to be made much easier than it now is to get rid, not merely of a bad judge, but of a judge who, however virtuous, has grown so out of touch with social needs and facts that he is unfit longer to render good service on the bench.

### ENTIRE SOUTHWEST IN BLIZZARD'S GRIP

Storm Extends to Texas and Cities Are Snow-bound.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 21.—The entire Southwest is today in the grip of the worst blizzard of the winter. A foot of snow had fallen in St. Louis and throughout Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma and was still falling steadily. The storm extends down to the Panhandle section of Texas. The temperature in southern Texas dropped from 70 degrees to below freezing over night.

All trains are from two to five hours late. Wire communication is practically paralyzed. In the larger cities business was nearly at a standstill. In St. Louis and Kansas City the streets were blocked with snow.

Reports from Shreveport, La., state that eight colored men were killed and a score injured by a tornado which swept that city. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

### COL. ROOSEVELT, IN OHIO SPEECH, TAKES PROGRESSIVE STAND

Former President Declares For Initiative and Referendum, and For Recall, If "Properly Restricted."

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 21.—Declaring for the people's power, so far as the initiative and referendum is concerned, although he wanted its exercise protected by "proper restrictions," Colonel Roosevelt today took the most progressive stand of his career.

He also told the constitutional convention, before which he presented his "charter of democracy," that, although originally opposed to the recall, he now believed it also should be within the power of the people. He qualified the recall for judges, by suggesting what he said was a better plan and avoided all reference to the tariff and certain other national issues by saying that he stood today exactly where he stood a year ago on such matters.

### Favors Referendum.

"The power to invoke direct action, both by initiative and by referendum," said Colonel Roosevelt, "should be provided for the people in such fashion as to prevent its being wanton or too frequently used. In the great majority of cases it is far better that action on legislative matters should be taken by those specially delegated to perform the task."

Action by the initiative or referendum ought not to be the normal way of legislation; but the power to use it should be provided in the Constitution, so that if the representatives fail to fully represent the people on some matter of sufficient importance to arouse popular interest, then the people will have in their hands the facilities to make good that failure.

This reference came as the climax of an eloquent appeal for increased power for the voter, who, the colonel said, should be given unabridged power of direct nominations, including therein direct preferential primaries for the election of delegates to the national nominating conventions. In this connection some of his hearers saw a barbed reference to the present situation in his party when Roosevelt said:

"As good citizens we are willing to acquiesce cheerfully in a nomination obtained by the expression of a majority of the people, but do not like to acquiesce in a nomination brought about by adroit political management in defeating the wish of the majority of the voters."

So far as the recall is concerned, the colonel said that there exists no great necessity for it "as regards short-term elective officers." However, after consideration, he said, he believes it should be generally provided, but with such restrictions as will make it available only when there is a widespread and genuine public feeling among a majority of the voters.

In its application to judges, however, he said:

### For Pure Democracy.

I believe in pure democracy. With Lincoln, I hold that "this country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it. We progressive believe that the people have the right, the power, and the duty to protect themselves and their own welfare; that human rights are a prime over all other rights; that wealth should be the servant, not the master, of the people. We believe that unless representative government does absolutely represent the people it is not representative government at all. We feel the worth of all men and all measures by asking how they contribute to the welfare of the men, women, and children of this nation is compared. We are engaged in one of the great battles of the age-long contest for pure democracy."

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

### PROPERTY LOSS WILL REACH TO SIX MILLIONS

Many Buildings Eaten Up by Flames and 2,000 Persons Homeless.

### 60,000 BALES OF COTTON DESTROYED

Families Separated During Excitement and Reports Spread That City Was Doomed.

HOUSTON, Tex., Feb. 21.—Fire, which started at an early hour this morning and threatened to wipe out Houston, swept a section of the city seven blocks wide and eighteen blocks long. Estimates of the loss reached as high as \$6,000,000.

A thirty-five-mile wind drove the flames from house to house and after half an hour's fighting it was seen that the fire was beyond control of the fire department. Churches, schools, more than one hundred residences, warehouses, lumber yards, cotton compresses, and small factories were quickly eaten up by the flames.

### Cotton Loss \$2,000,000.

Sixty thousand bales of cotton were destroyed and the loss to cotton dealers alone will reach \$2,000,000. Telegraph service is still impaired by the joint effect of the fire and storm.

It was not until after a block of houses in the direct path of the flames had been dynamited that the firemen got the situation in hand.

The area burned over includes the yards of the Southern Pacific railway. Cotton warehouses and loaded cars here were destroyed. It was this that brought the loss up, as most of the houses that were burned were lightly constructed and their contents not comparatively very valuable.

The heaviest losers are the McFadden Compress and the Cleveland Compress, both of which were filled with cotton. The big plant of the J. H. Harrell Lumber Company, including the mills and the sawpits, was also destroyed. The church and school adjoining were destroyed.

### IN CONGRESS TODAY

SENATE.  
Senate met at 2 o'clock.  
Members of School Board heard before subcommittee of Appropriations Committee in charge of District bill.

Senator Sutherland introduces measure for bureau for study of abnormal classes.

Finance committee continues hearings on bill for revision of steel schedule. Printing investigation committee soon to prepare report on alleged thefts of leather in military division of Government Printing Office.

Consideration of Stephenson case to be resumed this afternoon.

HOUSE.  
Chemical bill passed the House by a vote of 15 to 12.  
Congressman Hobson asked an investigation of the controversy between himself and Congressman Hay and Fitzgerald.

Everglades investigation continued. Military Affairs Committee voted to probe Alsworth case in the War Department.

Judiciary Committee continued consideration of anti-trust bills.

### White House Callers.

SENATORS.  
Jones, Wash., Richardson, Del., CONGRESSMEN:  
Hinds, Me., Calder, N. Y., Johnson, S. C., Foster, N. J., Gillett, Mass., Miller, Minn., McCall, Mass., Bartlett, Ga., Weeks, Mass., Olinde, Pa., Warburton, Wash., Gardner, Mass., Pickett, Iowa.

OTHER VISITORS.  
Secretary of War, Major Jackson.